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THE CRISIS IN RUSSIA.

Russia's second Duma has gone the way of the first one, and the end was brought about by Premier Stolypin's demand for the exclusion of certain members of the lower house accused of a plot against the czar, and the arrest of some among these declared to be most compromised. In a manifesto issued with the ukase the czar sets forth the grounds for his action, and with the announcement of his determination to abrogate the electoral law and to replace it by a new one. Promising that since the dissolution of the first Duma his government had adopted a series of successive measures to pacify the country and establish the affairs of state in regular course, the czar declares that the second Duma was summoned to contribute, according to his sovereign will, to the pacification of Russia, principally by the work of legislation; next, by an examination of the budget, and, finally, by the national use of the right of addressing interpellations to the government. A considerable section of the second Duma failed to justify his expectations, but displayed a manifest tendency to augment Russia's troubles and assist in the disruption of the state. As a result a hostile spirit was introduced into the Duma itself which prevented the union of a sufficient number of its members desirous of working for the interests of the country, and that body either failed to discuss important measures which were drawn up by the government or delayed their discussion, or else rejected them, nor even receding from the rejection of laws which punished the open support of crimes, and particularly the dissemination of trouble, who had evaded condemnation for assassinations and acts of violence. After complaining of obstacles growing out of the budget and the exercise of the right of interpellation, the czar finally refers to the case of the accused members in regard to which "the Duma failed to carry out immediately the lawful demand of the authorities, which admitted of no delay."

The czar finds the main cause of the Duma's failure to answer expectations to lie in the fact that, owing to defects in the electoral law, that body was composed of members who were not truly representative of the needs and desires of the people. He announces, therefore, that he has decided to modify the procedure in choosing elective representatives of the people to the Duma, in order that each section of the people may have its own representatives. The Duma, he says, should be Russia in spirit, and while other nationalities forming part of the empire ought to have representatives of their needs in that body, they ought not to appear, and shall not appear, in such numbers as will make it possible for them to be arbiters of questions which are purely Russian, and within the confines of the state where the people have not attained sufficient development, the elections to the Duma must be temporarily suspended. Realizing that the necessary "electoral" modifications could

not have been introduced in the customary legislative way by the Duma," the czar resorts to his "historic power" and announces that he gives Russia a new electoral law and orders its promulgation in the Senate. Such information as has come to hand regarding the new electoral basis indicates that an effort has been made to reduce to a minimum the registry of those classes of the population which have shown the greatest hostilities to the government. A reduction is made in the deputations from the eastern and Siberian provinces, which returned radical deputies to the late Duma; the representation from Poland is cut down to one-third of what it was, and an almost similar decrease is made in the Caucasus region. Increases in the number of delegates are provided for in certain provinces and cities which returned conservative members heretofore. Of twenty-four towns formerly elected representatives directly, only seven are to retain the method

While the czar and his advisors are arranging for another Duma the revolutionists of Russia are planning for an active campaign of bloodshed and for the first time it really seems as if the peasantry of the country was shaking off the supernatural reverence in which it held the "Little Father." It is this reverence that has prevented revolution for many years past but the agents of the revolutionists have been active in their work of education and it would seem now that all that is lacking for the overthrow of the czar is a real leader among the people. That the great mass in Russia is steady to fight for freedom there seems but little doubt; that they want to shake off the insufferable conditions that prevail and are willing to give their lives is a certainty. The time is ripe, but as far as can be judged from the newspapers the Washington or the Bolivar has not yet arrived.

THE FIRE PREVENTION CRUSADE

Since the great conflagration at San Francisco a number of engineers and construction experts have become engaged in a movement that approaches a crusade against lax building methods. Investigations and tests have shown that really fireproof buildings are very rare, and that many which are labelled fireproof, in large letters, are not so at all. The consensus of expert opinion seems to be that the remedy lies in strict and strictly enforced building laws. In other words: Do not trust to putting out fire, but remove the possibility.

The United States Geological Survey has received reports from three eminent engineers who made an exhaustive study of the condition of building after the fire in San Francisco. These engineers are Prof. Frank Soule, Dean of the College of Civil Engineering in the University of California; Captain John Stephen Sewell, of the corps of Engineers, United States Army; and Mr. Richard L. Humphrey, expert in charge of the Structural Materials Division of the Technical Branch of the Geological Survey and secretary of the National Advisory Board on Fuels and Structural Materials. "They reach the conclusion," remarks the Engineering Record, "that the lessons from the Chicago and Baltimore fires have not yet been learned and that a great conflagration, with its attendant loss of life and millions of dollars in property, is possible in every city in the country."

Mr. Humphrey says in his report that the defects of construction so strongly condemned in San Francisco "are no worse than those generally practiced throughout the United States." The cause of this, according to the reports, is the short-sightedness of builders, who, seeking a large immediate return on investment, refuse to pay for good construction. Fire statistics in this country, it is pointed out show the false economy in cheap construction. If individuals will not cease to put up unburnable buildings, say the experts, it is the duty of communities to do so by law.

The general conclusions of the three experts may be summed up in Mr. Humphrey's words: "The only sure way to remedy grave defects of this character is to enact strict building laws which will compel an observance of the essentials for fireproof construction."

It would seem as if Helen Gould would be justified in publishing some of the extraordinary requests that come to her from all sorts and conditions of people for money. It might have a different effect on those who are in comfortable circumstances and who yet have the nerve to ask for help to cater to their vanities.

Dan Hanna must have a mighty winning way with him among women. When a man is sued twice for divorce on the ground of cruelty and can get a third woman to marry him, he must have something of a persuasive manner—or the woman in ques-

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Leave Norfolk, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a. m. and 12:00 m., 1:30, 4:00, 1:23 6:00, 7:30 and 9:00 p. m.

*Daily except Sunday. **Sunday only. Schedule subject to change without notice.

tion is—but gallantry forbids us expressing our thought.

If the press accounts of the Ascot are true, the women's hats must have looked like the remains of the original Floradora sextet.

Taft is back from his long trip and nothing left of recent illness but his stomach and his ambition.

There is to be a Mexican Exposition in 1910. May President Diaz live to open it?

Monuments for a Town.

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Try to make "he atmosphere healthy
Fire all croakers, loafers and dead beats. Let your object be the welfare, growth and promotion of your town and its people. Speak well of the public-spirited men, and also be one of them yourself. Be honest with your fellow-men.

THAW BEGS HIS LAWYERS TO TRY AND GET HIM BAIL

Twelve Months in Tombs Has Telling Affect on Spirits and Physical Appearance of Prisoner.

NEW YORK, June 25.—Harry K. Thaw celebrated the anniversary of the shooting of Stanford White today by beginning an effort to procure release from Tombs prison, pending his next trial. The year in prison has made a different man of Thaw, both in appearance and in spirit. It was partially on account of his bad health that Assistant District Attorney Garvin will leave next week to spend three months in Europe, that Thaw's counsel consented today to ask for bail.

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, accompanied by Attorneys O'Reilly and Peabody, called on Thaw in the Tombs today. Thaw looked worse than at any time in weeks. The prisoner's cheeks were sunken, his skin always dark, had an unhealthy tinge, and his prominent eyes bulged almost out of their sockets. The heavy blow came when he was told of the departure of Garvin, which means that the trial cannot be held for at least four months, and that Thaw must spend the long, hot summer and early fall waiting in his cell. Then he begged that an effort for bail be made.

The lawyers were not enthusiastic, as they told him the standing of the jury seven to five for conviction would be a hard barrier to overcome in an argument before a Supreme Court justice.

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